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Hudson. \$131 for book fund, proceeds of ball.

La Crosse. Public library. \$25,000 for addition from six citizens.

Ladysmith. Public library. \$100 from citizens.

Madison. University of Wisconsin library. \$2,000 additional from James J. Hill; valuable library of rare German socialistic literature collected by Herman Schullter, from William English Walling; library of the late Henry Demarest Lloyd from his heirs.

Milwaukee. Public library. \$5,000 for books on mechanical, technical and scientific subjects by will of Julius G. Wagner.

Plymouth. \$5,600 from Andrew Carnegie.

Shawano. Public library. \$100 for books from Ladies' club.

WYOMING

Big Horn County (Basin). \$15,000 from Andrew Carnegie.

Douglas. \$10,000 from Andrew Carnegie.

NOTES AND NEWS

France. Soon after its organization in the latter part of 1905, the Association des Bibliothécaires Français began to consider steps looking toward the appointment of a Higher council on libraries to be a consultative body under the Ministry of Public Instruction and Fine Arts and analagous to the various committees and councils which now exist under that ministry, to consider the affairs of the different grades of education. The advances of the association were favorably received by the minister and upon his request a committee of the association formulated details for the appointment of a satisfactory council. These details dealt with the function and powers of such a body and indicated the views of the association as to its composition. After a number of audiences with the minister of public instruction and an extended consideration of the details for the plan, the minister has finally announced the creation of the

desired commission in an order of the 12th of January, which is translated below. Office of the Minister of Public Instruction and Fine Arts

Order

Art. 1, sec. 1 There shall be created in the Ministry of Public Instruction and Fine Arts a Higher commission of libraries with the following membership: ex-officio the director of higher education, the director of archives, the inspectors-general of libraries, the administrator-general of Bibliothèque nationale, the director of the Ecole des chartes.

Sec. 2 Two members elected by the officers of 1st, the Bibliothèque nationale, 2d, the state public libraries: Mazarine, Arsenal, Sainte-Geneviève, 3d, the librarian of the Museum d'histoire naturelle and the archivist-librarian of the Musée de l'enseignement public.

Sec. 3 Two members elected by the officers of the libraries of the universities of Paris and of the departments.

Sec. 4 Two members elected by the librarians of the chief municipal libraries classed as such according to art. 6 of the decree of the 1st of July 1897.

Sec. 5 Six members designated by the Minister of whom two shall be members of Parliament and four chosen from the chief officials of the libraries, and from the members of the "corps savants" and the office of higher education.

Art. 2 All members of the commission shall be chosen for a term of four years.

Art. 3 A ministerial order shall determine the rules governing their election.

Art. 4 The Minister shall designate the president, the vice-president and the secretary of the commission.

Art. 5 The commission shall meet at least once a year on the call of the Minister.

Art. 6 It shall give advice on all questions laid before it directly by the Minister, as well as on questions previously examined by the Permanent Section provided for in art. 7.

Members may formally express opinions which shall be sent to the Permanent Section.

Art. 7 The Permanent Section shall comprise eight members chosen by the Minister from the different classes enumerated above. Two members at least shall be chosen from the elected members.

The Minister shall designate the president, vice-president and secretary of the Permanent Section.

Art. 8 The Permanent Section shall give advice on matters calling for prompt action as well as on the opinions expressed by the members of the commission.

It shall prepare the form of presentation of such questions as may be laid before it by the Minister and on which the commission is to be consulted.

Art. 9 The order of March 18, 1892 shall be and is hereby repealed as well as all regulations contrary to the provisions of the present order.

Done at Paris, 12 January 1909

GASTON DOUMERGUE

Minister of Public Instruction
and Fine Arts

The desirability and propriety of such a commission has not, we believe, been questioned either by the French educational authorities or by the leading French librarians. The preliminary difficulties have arisen over a satisfactory personnel, and especially over the effort to secure adequate and just professional representation particularly of the municipal libraries. A careful study of the above ministerial order seems to indicate

that a fair representation is accorded to all classes of French libraries and that the membership of the commission constituted along the lines stipulated should represent the best men in every field of French library work. The appointment of the commission is a recognition on the part of the chief French educational authority that libraries and their work form an important phase of educational endeavor.

Holland. The public libraries and librarians in this country have organized the "Vereeniging voor openbare leeszaalen in Nederland." The moving spirit in and secretary of the new society is Dr H. E. Greve, librarian of the States-General at The Hague and author of "Openbare lees-musea en volksbibliotheken" 1906.

The society plans to publish a monthly journal the first number of which is to appear at once.

Library of Congress. The Library of Congress frequently receives from undergraduate students in the various colleges in the United States requests for bibliographic aid. In almost all cases such requests are in connection with the preparation of debates.

While the disposition of this Library is to be of service to anyone who comes to it for aid, yet its particular function is to aid *research*, and even in this it should not encroach upon the duties or privileges of any other library to its particular constituents. In order to emphasize that the college library and its librarian are the proper media of communication between the faculty or students and the Library of Congress, it asks that all requests for bibliographical aid be preferred through the college librarian.

Virginia library meeting. The Virginia library association will hold its annual meeting in Richmond on April 9-10, 1909. The meeting is designed to interest educators, library workers and citizens generally in the need and possibilities for library development in that state. The Executive Board has voted to send Mr Arthur E. Bostwick as a delegate to represent the American Library Association.